

REMARKS

This Preliminary Amendment amends the originally-filed Abstract of the above-referenced U.S. application, and provides the amended Abstract on a separate sheet. In addition, the Preliminary Amendment amends the originally-filed specification of the above-referenced U.S. application, via a Substitute Specification, to refer to and claim priority from the underlying PCT Application No. PCT/EP2005/000041 which was filed on January 5, 2005, and published on July 21, 2005 as International Publication No. WO/2005/065843, and from German Patent Application No. DE 10 2004 001 095.1, filed on January 5, 2004, pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.78(a)(2). In addition, the specification has been amended to remove minor informalities from the originally-filed PCT application, as provided herewith in the enclosed Substitute Specification. A marked-up comparison document between the English language translation of the originally-filed specification and the Substitute specification is enclosed herewith.

Further, originally-filed claims 1-37 of the underlying PCT Application No. PCT/EP2005/000041 and substitute claims 1-22 filed in the underlying International Application PCT/EP2005/000041 under PCT Article 34 have been cancelled, without prejudice. New claims 38-58 have been added, e.g., to provide substitute claims 1-22 in an appropriate form for prosecution before the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, and not due to any reason relating to patentability. Accordingly, claims 38-58 are now under consideration in the above-identified application. It is respectfully submitted that the amendments to the specification and new claims do not add new matter to the application.

The underlying PCT Application No. PCT/EP2005/000041 includes an International Search Report dated April 22, 2005, a copy of which is included. The

Search Report includes a list of document(s) that have been considered by the Examiner in the underlying PCT application.

Enclosed herewith, please also find a copy of the PCT Written Opinion for the International Application No. PCT/EP2005/000041 dated April 22, 2005. In addition, the PCT Preliminary Examination Report for the underlying PCT Application No. PCT/EP2005/000041 dated February 28, 2006 is also enclosed. Applicants respectfully note that the PCT Examination Authority confirmed that all pending substitute claims 1-22 filed in the underlying International Application PCT/EP2005/000041 under PCT Article 34 comply with the requirements set forth under PCT Article 33(2)-(4).

Applicants assert that the present invention is new, non-obvious, and useful. Prompt consideration and allowance of the pending claims are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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